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Agenda item 3 (a)
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas (Belarus), on the basis of informal consultations

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policy orientations set out by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

Management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system,[1] and the efforts of the Secretary-General to

[1] E/2008/49.

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strengthen the results-orientation of that report, in line with paragraph 141 of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

2. *Notes* the response of the United Nations system in implementing General Assembly resolution 62/208 at the agency and inter-agency levels, as specified in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, and requests the United Nations system to pursue the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

3. *Reiterates* the call of the General Assembly for the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system to take appropriate actions for the full implementation of resolution 62/208;

4. *Also reiterates* the requests of the General Assembly to the executive heads of those organizations to report annually to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the resolution for the triennial comprehensive policy review;

5. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism and their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as called for in paragraph 142 of resolution 62/208, to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 2009, a detailed report on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to resolution 62/208 in order for the Council to evaluate the implementation of the resolution, with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in responding to paragraph 141 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to strengthen efforts to identify results and fine-tune targets, benchmarks and timeframes;

8. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General in paragraph 125 of General Assembly resolution 62/208 to prepare a report identifying human resources challenges within the development system at the country level and formulating recommendations for improvements, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Civil Service Commission, to submit that report to the Council at its substantive session in 2009 and to cover in the report the issues raised in paragraph 126 of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

9. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations system to achieve an upward trend and an expanding base of financial support for operational activities for development, and requests the United Nations system to pursue and consult with Member States on efforts to increase resources and achieve a better balance between core/regular funding and non-core/extrabudgetary funding;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, in line with paragraphs 45 and 46 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to undertake concrete efforts, in consultation with Member States, to support capacity-building for development, the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to programme countries, and the

facilitation of access of developing countries to new and emerging technologies in support of operational activities for development;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 139 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and in this regard takes note of the seminar of the "programme country pilots" on the theme "Delivering as one: exchange of experiences and lessons learned", held in Maputo, from 21 to 23 May 2008;[2]

Functioning of the resident coordinator system, including its costs and benefits

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits;[3]

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his annual report on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, to report on the participation and support to the functioning of the resident coordinator system by the United Nations system, including the non-resident agencies, and on progress in enhancing development impact, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and costs and benefits of coordination through the resident coordinator system, with specific attention to the regional and country levels;

14. *Requests* the heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations to include in the annual reports to their governing bodies any proposed measures to enhance their respective organization's participation in financial, technical and organizational support to the resident coordinator system;

15. *Underscores* that the resident coordinator, supported by the United Nations country team, should report to national authorities on progress made against results agreed in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Group, within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, to further develop approaches to measure and report on the costs and benefits of coordination, and further encourages the Secretary-General to consolidate this information, to the extent possible, and present it to the Council at its substantive sessions of 2009 and 2010;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his response to paragraph 94 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to bear in mind the various coordination functions of the resident coordinators;

Comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2006

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2006,[4] and recognizes the progress made to broaden and improve the reporting in line with paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

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[2] A/63/85-E/2008/83.

[3] E/2008/60.

[4] E/2008/46.

19. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations development system to participate fully in this exercise;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, making use of existing capacities within the Secretariat and, if necessary, voluntary contributions, to continue efforts:

(a) To continue to broaden and improve the coverage, timeliness, reliability, quality and comparability of system-wide financial data, definitions and classifications for the financial reporting of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in a coherent way;

(b) To build a comprehensive, sustainable and consistent financial data and reporting system for the operational activities for development of all the relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations system;

(c) To invite Member States to contribute to the support of the work mentioned above;

Simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system

21. *Takes note* of the actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the information provided in response to paragraph 112 of General Assembly resolution 62/208 is presented at future sessions of the Council in the form of a report;

23. *Requests* the executive heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to report in a timely manner to the executive boards and governing bodies on progress regarding simplification and harmonization to support the assessment by the executive boards and governing bodies in this area.